St. Germans Rural District Council

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1972

P. J. FOX, M. B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

ST. GERMANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The estimated population of No. 7 Health Area on the 30th June, 1972, was 56,480. This represented an increase of 1,290 over the corresponding figure for 1971. In the Liskeard Rural District and the Borough of Saltash the increase was 340, in Torpoint Urban District 280, in St. Germans Rural District 270, and in the Borough of Liskeard 70. In the Looe Urban District an insignificant decrease of 10 in the population was recorded.

Live births registered during 1972 totalled 823, a reduction of 32 on the high figure of the previous year. The corrected birth rate at 16.1 per 1,000 of population was 1.3 per 1,000 above the national rate. Illegitimate births totalled 62 representing 7.5% of all live births, the same percentage as in 1971. The rate for still births was slightly under the national figure and that for infant mortality slightly above the national rate. Of the 16 infants dying under one year of age 9 were lost in the critical first four weeks after birth. No death attributable to maternal causes occurred during the year.

Deaths totalling 781 showed an increase of 2 on the 1971 figure, and produced a corrected rate of 11.5 per 1,000 of population to set against the national rate of 12.1. A breakdown of the principal causes of death again showed heart disease to be the most common cause of death being responsible for 37% of all deaths. Next in order cancer caused 21% of all deaths and as is usual now cancer of the lung and windpipe was the most prevalent single type of that generally fatal disease. Of the 781 persons who died during 1972 some 386 or 49% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

During 1972 the incidence of notifiable disease was comparatively light with a total of 81 cases being notified. Of this total 70 were due to measles. Of the more serious forms of notifiable disease there was one case only - a meningococcal meningitis. The patient involved suffered a severe fulminating attack of this infection and outcome was unfortunately fatal.

As far as tuberculosis was concerned the year 1972 was an uncommonly good one during which two new cases only were notified. One was a respiratory infection of a 24 year old female, the other a non-respiratory infection of a 91 year old male. During the year 3 deaths were attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. All three persons concerned, two male and one female, were aged 75 years or more at the time of death.

The vital statistics used in making up the Annual Report are received during April and early May of the year following that to which the report refers. Thus the statistics setting out deaths during 1972 were received on the 10th April, 1973 whilst those relating to live births, still births, and infant deaths did not come to hand until the 2nd May, 1973. Until these statistics are received it is not possible to commence the preparation of an Annual Report which would be of any real value to the District Council to which it is addressed, or to those Departments of the Government which receive copies of the Report. However, under arrangements for the restructuring of Local Government the six County District Councils to whom since 1948 I have submitted Annual Reports will at the end of March 1974 cease to exist in their

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present form, and their functions and duties will be taken over by the new large Caradon District Council which, already in existence in shadow form, will become fully operative on the 1st April, 1974. At that same time in 1974 the appointment I now hold as Medical Officer of Health will cease to exist. With this combination of circumstances it would seem to me difficult if not impossible, and something of a pointless and un-necessary exercise to produce in the summer of 1974 six Annual Reports for 1973 direct to District Councils which no longer exist. Moreover my personal circumstances are such that if a scheme for early retirement to be operated in conjunction with the National Health Service Reorganisation legislation came in effect, I would very likely retire on or before the 31st March, 1974.

From what I have written in the paragraph immediately preceeding this it appears to me possible and indeed probable that this is the final Annual Report I shall be submitting to you. At the time of writing I have served for just over 25 years as Medical Officer of Health to the six County Districts in South-East Cornwall and it seems an appropriate time to offer to the Members and Officers of those Councils my sincere thanks for the support and understanding I have had from them over the years.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. GERMANS

PUBLIC HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

Councillor C.J. Gillbard — Chairman.
Councillor Miss F. Coombe — Vice-Chairman.

The Whole Council.

HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Councillor M.E. Higman, M.B.E. — Chairman.
Councillor A.R.R. Perkins — Vice Chairman.

The Whole Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

P.J. Fox, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Health Area Office,
Graylands, Dean Street,
LISKEARD. — Telephone - Liskeard 43014.

W.E. Grylls, M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

R.L. Williams, M.R.S.H.,
Public Health Inspector.

G.J. Follett,
Public Health Inspector.

Council Offices,
Lower Port View,
SALTASH. PL12 4DE. — Telephone - Saltash 2176.

RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. GERMANS

Area of Rural District.	48,533 acres
Population.	15,390
Number of Inhabited Houses.	6,158
Rateable Value at 1.4.72	395,974
Product of Penny Rate 1972/73	3,947

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1972

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	110	111	221

	St. Germans R.D.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	17.4	16.1	14.8

	Male	Female	Total
Still births	1	-	1

	St. Germans R.D.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	5.0	11.0	12.0

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	111	108	219

	St. Germans R.D.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales
Death rate per 1,000 of population	10.8	11.5	12.1

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	3	1	4

	St. Germans R.D.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	18.0	19.4	17.0

Principal Causes of Death of All Ages

Heart disease	76
Cancer (all sites	51
Respiratory disease	24
Stroke	21
Circulatory disease	16
Accidents	6

The trend for an excess of deaths over births noted in the two years immediately preceeding 1972 was reversed to give a small excess of births. Of the 221 live births, 20 were illegitimate births, and represented 9.0% of all live births. Of the defined forms of cancer causing death that affecting the intestine was marginally more prevalent than cancer of the lung and bronchus.

Notifiable Disease (other than tuberculosis)

The prevalence of this group of diseases was again quite light during 1972. In all 34 cases only were notified, with measles accounting for 28 of these notifications.

Tuberculosis

No new cases of this disease were notified during 1972.

At the end of the year there were 10 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 3 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis resident in the Rural District.

No new cases of this disease were notified during 1952.

At the end of the year there were 10 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 3 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis resident in the Rural District.

Tuberculosis

Notifications.

In all 34 cases only were notified, with measles accounting for 38 of these. The prevalence of this group of diseases was again quite light during 1952.

Notifiable Disease (other than tuberculosis)

Incidence.

The trend for an excess of deaths over births noted in the two years immediately preceding 1952 was reversed to give a small excess of births. Of the 332 live births, 30 were illegitimate births, and represented 9.0% of all live births. Of the defined forms of cancer causing death that affected the alimentary tract more frequently than cancer of the lung and pronouns.

Accidents	6
Circulatory disease	46
Stroke	32
Respiratory disease	34
Cancer (all sites	21
Heart disease	70

Principal Causes of Death of All Ages

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	18.0	19.4	17.0

	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	32. Germans R.D.			Heath Area No. 7		
1 year of age	3	1	4			
Deaths of infants under						
Death rate per 1,000 of population	10.8	11.2	11.1			
Deaths	111	101	212			
	Males	Females	Total			
	32. Germans R.D.			Heath Area No. 7		
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	2.0	11.0	13.0			
Still births	1	-	1			
	Males	Females	Total			
	32. Germans R.D.			Heath Area No. 7		
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	17.4	18.1	14.8			
Live Births	110	111	221			
	Male	Female	Total			

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1952

Area of Rural District	48,252 acres
Population	13,390
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,152
Rateable Value at 1.4.52	£76,470
Product of Penny Rate 1952/53	£340

RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. GERMANS

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action under Section 47 of this Act was taken during the year.

Water Supply.

A generally adequate supply of wholesome water was available from the mains of the East Cornwall Water Board throughout the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

A certain amount of progress was made in this field during the year. There are however inadequacies in the system at Callington, Gunnislake and St. Germans which are likely to slow down or halt further housing developments in these localities.

Food.

Reasonable standards of food hygiene were maintained in food shops and catering establishments.

Food Poisoning.

No case of food poisoning was notified during 1972.

Factories Act, 1961.

No difficulties in the operation of this Act were experienced during the year.

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector.

Due to pressure of work connected with Local Government reorganisation the report which Mr. W.E. Grylls has provided is of necessity very brief.

I should like to express to Mr. Grylls, Mr. R.L. Williams and Mr. G. Follett my thanks for the help I have had from them during the year.

1972 Medical Officer of Health Report

Meat and other foods

Details of the throughput during the year at the abattoirs within the Council's district here-under (see appended copy).

	CATTLE			Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves		
Number killed	488	87	5	714	3
Number inspected	488	87	5	714	3
All diseases except cysticercosis and tuberculosis					
(a) Whole carcass condemned	3	5	-	3	-
(b) Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	314	7	-	201	1
Tuberculosis only					
(a) Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis only					
(a) Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-
Gross weight of meat condemned	2917	3046	-	798	12

Until 1970 there had been a steady rise in beef throughput, but this came to an abrupt halt in 1971 which as I reported dropped by 27% from the previous year. This trend has continued in the year under review and shows an even greater fall of approximately 30% of the 1971 total. Whereas in 1971, the fall in beef throughput was offset by a substantial increase in sheep and lamb, during 1972 the throughput in this category dropped to only 32.41% of the preceding year.

Account must be taken when considering the above statistics of the fact that the Kelly Bray abattoir production drastically fell during the year.

Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act 1968
Food and Drugs Act 1955 Regulations

Apart from minor irregularities dealt with on an informal basis, nothing of a serious nature arose during the year which warranted any legal action being taken by the Council, food premises generally being maintained at a reasonably high standard.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

A few complaints were investigated by the Council's officers during the year being reviewed, the appropriate action taken, and routine water samples of untreated supplies regularly taken to safeguard the site occupants.

APPENDIX 1. PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1972.

DISEASE	ST. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE UD.	HEALTH AREA NO. 7.
Heart Disease.	76	66	47	29	46	27	291 (37%)
Cancer (all sites)	51	45	28	9	17	10	160 (21%)
Stroke.	21	20	23	9	23	10	106 (14%)
Respiratory disease.	24	16	14	5	9	3	71
Circulatory disease.	16	10	3	-	6	7	42
Accidents.	6	11	3	3	4	1	28 *
Digestive disease	3	6	1	-	-	2	12

* includes 10 motor vehicle accidents.

APPENDIX 2. TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1972.

TYPE OF DISEASE	ST. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.D.	HEALTH AREA NO. 7.
Ischaemic heart disease.	60.	64	37	22	44	20	247
Rheumatic heart disease.	3	-	1	2	1	1	8
Hypertensive disease.	4	-	1	1	-	1	7
Other heart disease.	9	2	8	4	1	5	29
Cancer of lung/ bronchus	7	12	6	2	4	2	33
Cancer of intestine	8	6	5	3	2	1	25
Cancer of stomach	6	4	-	1	-	2	13
Cancer of breast	5	4	1	-	2	1	13
Cancer of uterus	6	1	1	-	-	-	8
Other cancers	19	18	15	3	9	4	68

APPENDIX 3.

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1972.

DISTRICT.	0-4 years	5 -14 years	15-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	All ages.
ST.GERMANS R.D.	5	1	4	42	53	114	219
LISKEARD R.D.	1	-	6	40	60	85	192
SALTASH M.B.	11	-	4	22	28	69	134
TORPOINT U.D.	-	1	2	16	15	25	59
LISKEARD M.B.	3	-	4	14	25	69	115
LOOE U.D.	-	-	1	14	23	24	62
HEALTH AREA NO. 7.	20	2	21	148	204	386 (49%)	781

APPENDIX 4.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1972.

AGE GROUPS.	MALES	FEMALES	PERSONS.
0 - 4 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	1	1
25 - 44 years	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	-	-	-
65 years and over	1	-	1
	1	1	2

	MALES	FEMALES	PERSONS
New case rate per 1,000 of population	0.018	0.018	0.036

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1972.

DISTRICT	NEW CASES	ALL KNOWN CASES	DEATHS
St. Germans R.D.	-	0.84	-
Liskeard R.D.	-	0.61	-
Saltash M.B.	0.19	1.07	0.10
Torpoint U.D.	-	0.90	0.15
Liskeard M.B.	-	1.13	0.19
Looe U.D.	-	1.24	-
Health Area No. 7.	0.04	0.89	0.05
Cornwall County	0.17	2.09	0.03

APPENDIX 5

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1972

AGE GROUP	MALES	FEMALES	PERSONS
35 - 44 years	1	-	1
45 - 54 years	1	-	1
55 - 64 years	10	1	11
65 - 74 years	8	3	11
75 years and over	5	4	9
	25	8	33

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION - 1972.

	MALES	FEMALES	PERSONS
Health Area No. 7.	0.443	0.142	0.585
Cornwall County	0.412	0.130	0.542
England and Wales	0.525	0.120	0.645